

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises:
 - an image setting section for selecting said images; and
 - a music setting section for selecting said music,
 - wherein said editing section adjusts an image playback time to make said image playback time and said music playback time substantially coincide, based on said number of said images and said music playback time of said music.
3. (Previously Presented) The as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises:
 - an image playback time-setting section for setting said playback time of each of said images; and
 - a music setting section for selecting said music,
 - wherein said editing section adjusts said number of said images to make said image playback time and said music playback time substantially coincide, based on said playback time of each of said images and said music playback time of said music.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises:
 - an image setting section for setting said number of said images; and
 - an image playback time-setting section for setting said playback time of each of said images,
 - wherein said music, which is adjusted so that said image playback time and said music playback time substantially coincide, is edited, based on said number of said images and said playback time of each of said images.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises an adjustment section for adjusting said image playback time to substantially coincide with said music playback time, when said image playback time and said music playback time are not substantially the same.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein:
said adjustment section includes an image playback time-adjusting section for adjusting said image playback time;

said image playback time-adjusting section includes:

an image number-adjusting section for setting said number of said images; and

an image time-adjusting section for setting said playback time of each of said images,

wherein said image playback time-adjusting section adjusts said image playback time to substantially coincide with said music playback time, based on said image number-adjusting section and said image time-adjusting section.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

said adjustment section includes a music playback time-adjusting section for adjusting said music playback time; and

said music playback time-adjusting section adjusts said music playback time to substantially coincide with said image playback time.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises:

a playback time setting section for setting a time defined by a user as playback time of said images;

an image playback time-adjusting section for adjusting said image playback time to substantially coincide with said playback time defined by the user; and

a music playback time-adjusting section for adjusting said music playback time to substantially coincide with said playback time defined by the user.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein an image file is created having said music playback time and said image playback time that substantially coincide.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
a movie playback module,
wherein movies are played back having movie playback time that substantially coincides with said music playback time of said music, said music being separate from said movies and played back to accompany said movies.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises a screen switching-setting section for setting said playback time of each of said images by synchronizing timing for switching images with a specific timing of said music.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said specific timing of said music is at least one of a beginning of each sub-section of said music and a distinctive sound.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section comprises an image processing section for setting a process of image switching for each genre of said music.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
a movie playback module,
wherein movies and said images are played back such that a total playback time for playing back said plurality of images along with said movies substantially coincides with said

music playback time, said music being separate from said movies and played back to accompany said movies and said images.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein creation information of at least one of said images and said movies is outputted to a file.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for adjusting an image playback time of a plurality of images and a music playback time of accompanying music to substantially coincide, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting input of instructions for selecting images and music to be played back;
- (b) setting at least one of images to be played back, an image playback time for playing back said images, music to be played back, movies to be played back, a total playback time, a music genre, a screen switching method, and a mixing level, wherein said music is prepared separately from said images;
- (c) obtaining at least one of said image playback time and said music playback time from said setting of said images and said setting of said music;
- (d) adjusting at least one of said obtained image playback time and said obtained music playback time to make a period of a first playback time, which is the playback time for the images, substantially coincide with a period of a second playback time, which is the playback time for said music, wherein said first playback time is defined based on the number of said images and on a playback time for each of said plurality of images, said adjusting step achieving backup-tuned images with coinciding image playback and music playback times; and
- (e) processing at least one of the images and the music after said adjusting of at least one of said obtained image playback time and said obtained music playback time.

17. (Currently Amended) An image and music playback apparatus for playing back images accompanied by music, comprising:

an image playback module for playing back a plurality of images accompanied by music prepared separately from said plurality of images in a first playback time;

a music playback module for playing back said music in a second playback time; and
an editing section connected to said image playback module and said music playback module for making a period of said first playback time substantially coincide with a period of said second playback time, said editing section defining said first playback time based on the number of said images and on a playback time for each of said plurality of images, when sequentially playing back said plurality of images, said editing section achieving backup-tuned images with coinciding image playback and music playback times.

18. (Previously Presented) The image and music playback apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section includes:

an adjustment section having at least one of:
an image number-adjusting section for adjusting a number of images to be played back; and
an image time-adjusting section for adjusting a time for playing back an image.

19. (Previously Presented) The image and music playback apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said editing section comprises:

an image processing section connected to said adjustment section, said image processing section processing said images in concert with said music to be played back; and
a music processing section connected to said adjustment section, said music processing section processing said music in concert with said images to be played back.

20.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein playback time of each image is determined based on said second playback time and the number of said plurality of images.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a playback time for each of said plurality of images is set based on a distinctive sound in said music.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a playback time for each of said plurality of images is set based on a sub-section of said music.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said editing section determines said playback time of each image based on said second playback time and the number of said plurality of images.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said editing section includes an image time-adjusting section for setting said playback time for each of said plurality of images based on a distinctive sound in said music.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said editing section includes an image time-adjusting section for setting said playback time for each of said plurality of images based on a sub-section of said music.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said setting step sets a number of images to be played back and a playback time per image and said adjusting step adjusts said obtained music playback time so that the music playback time substantially coincides with total image playback time.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein
when said setting step sets total playback time based on a previously designated total playback time, said adjusting step adjusts music playback time and the image playback time based on said total playback time,

when total playback time is not previously designated and image playback time per image is set, said adjusting step adjusts music playback time so that the music playback time substantially coincides with total image playback time, and

when total playback time is not previously designated and image playback time per image is not set, said adjusting step adjusts playback time per image so that total image playback time substantially coincides with music playback time.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of making a movie playback time and a music playback time substantially coincide, comprising:

(a) accepting input of instructions for selecting a movie and music to be played back;
(b) setting a movie to be played back and music to be played back based on said instructions;

(c) obtaining at least one of a movie playback time and a music playback time based on said setting step;

(d) adjusting at least one of said obtained movie playback time and said obtained music playback time to make a period of a first playback time, which is a playback time for the movie, substantially coincide with a period of a second playback time, which is a playback time for said music, said adjusting step achieving a backup-tuned movie with coinciding movie playback and music playback times; and

(e) processing said music after said adjusting of said at least one of said obtained movie playback time and said obtained music playback time, wherein

when total playback time is not previously designated and movie playback time is chosen as a basis for adjustment, said adjusting step adjusts music playback time so that the music playback time substantially coincides with the movie playback time, and

when total playback time is not previously designated and movie playback time is not chosen as a basis for adjustment, said adjusting step adjusts movie playback time so that movie playback time substantially coincides with the music playback time.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein a user inputs instructions for selecting images and music to be played back using a display screen menu.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein a user inputs instructions for selecting a movie and music to be played back using a display screen menu.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein

when said setting step sets total playback time based on a previously designated total playback time, said adjusting step adjusts music playback time and the image playback time based on said total playback time,

when total playback time is not previously designated and image playback time per image is set, said adjusting step adjusts music playback time so that the music playback time substantially coincides with total image playback time, and

when total playback time is not previously designated and image playback time per image is not set, said adjusting step adjusts playback time per image so that total image playback time substantially coincides with music playback time.

36. (Currently Amended) A movie and music playback apparatus for playing back movies accompanied by music, comprising:

a movie playback module for playing back a movie accompanied by music prepared separately from said movie in a first playback time;

a music playback module for playing back said music in a second playback time; and

an editing section connected to said image playback module and said music playback module, said editing section making a period of said first playback time substantially coincide with a period of said second playback time by:

(a) accepting input of instructions for selecting a movie and music to be played back;

(b) setting a movie to be played back and music to be played back based on said instructions;

(c) obtaining at least one of a movie playback time and a music playback time based on said setting step;

(d) adjusting at least one of said obtained movie playback time and said obtained music playback time to make a period of the first playback time substantially coincide with a

period of the second playback time, said adjusting step achieving a backup-tuned movie with coinciding movie playback and music playback times; and

(e) processing said music after said adjusting, wherein

when total playback time is not previously designated and movie playback time is chosen as a basis for adjustment, said editing section adjusts music playback time so that the music playback time substantially coincides with the movie playback time, and

when total playback time is not previously designated and movie playback time is not chosen as a basis for adjustment, said editing section adjusts movie playback time so that movie playback time substantially coincides with the music playback time.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

a display outputting a display screen menu used to receive user instructions for selecting images and music to be played back.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, further comprising:

a display outputting a display screen menu used to receive user instructions for selecting a movie and music to be played back.